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STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

1315 W. 4th Avenue • Kennewick, Washington 99336-6018 • (509) 735-7581

September 4, 2003

Mr. Roy Schepens, Manager
Office of River Protection
United States Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 450, MSIN: H6-60
Richland, Washington 99352-0550

RECEIVED
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EDMC

Dear Mr. Schepens:

Re: Temporary Authorization for Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant Permit
Design Packages PTF-007, PTF-008, and LAW -029

Reference: Letter, USDOE-ORP, 03-ED-131, received September 2, 2003

In the letter referenced above, The United States Department of Energy, Office of River Protection (USDOE-ORP) requested that the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) consider issuing a temporary authorization for the following design packages:

- PTF-007: PTF (Pretreatment Facility) Secondary Containment for Transfer Lines Below Grade
- PTF-008: PTF Ancillary Equipment for Transfer Lines Below Grade
- LAW-029: LAW (Low Activity Waste Facility) Tank System Ancillary Equipment (Piping Only) for El. -21 ft

Ecology has reviewed the information received for Design Packages PTF-007, PTF-008, and LAW-029. Ecology finds the following pursuant to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-303-830(4)(e)(ii)(A)(II) and WAC 173-303-830(4)(e)(iii): (1) the requested temporary authorization is for activities that would be part of a Class 3 permit modification, if the modification had been issued as a Permittee-initiated modification; (2) the authorized activities are in compliance with the standards of WAC 173-303-280 through 173-303-395 and 173-303-600 through 173-303-680; and (3) the temporary authorization is necessary to achieve facilitation of timely implementation of closure activities.

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Pursuant to WAC 173-303-830(4)(e), Ecology hereby grants temporary authorization for the activities described above for 180 days, effective from September 5, 2003 through March 4, 2004. As noted in previous temporary authorizations granted by Ecology, this temporary authorization does not include installation of concrete coatings (e.g. epoxy liners), leak detection system instrumentation, or secondary containment system pumping equipment.

As soon as possible, Ecology will prepare a draft permit incorporating the proposed changes, indicating the tentative decision to modify the Dangerous Waste Portion of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit for the Hanford Site (WA7890008967), Part III, Chapter 10, Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP Permit). The permit modification process in WAC 173-303-840(2) will be followed for this proposed modification. Only those conditions to be modified will be reopened when the new draft permit is prepared. All other aspects of the existing permit will remain in effect for the duration of the unmodified permit. After closure of the public comment period and public hearing, Ecology will formally respond to any comments received, and make a final permit decision on whether or not to modify the WTP Permit.

Until Ecology issues the final permit decision, the Permittees must follow all applicable conditions, information, and drawings provided in the temporary authorization request. The final permit decision will replace this temporary authorization. It is important to remind USDOE-ORP of the risk being assumed as public comment for this draft permit is yet to be conducted. Significant public comment might result in changes to the draft permit, affecting the areas for which this temporary authorization is being approved.

If there are any questions regarding this letter, please call me at (509) 736-5705 or Steve Skurla at (509) 736-3011.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzanne Dahl" followed by a flourish.

Suzanne Dahl
Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

SS:SD:jc

See cc's next page

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cc: Dave Bartus, EPA
Nick Ceto, EPA
Cathy Massimino, EPA
Lori Huffman, ORP
Roy J. Schepens, ORP
Bill Taylor, ORP
Jim Betts, BNI
Bill Clements, BNI
Brad Erlandson, BNI
Jim Henschel, BNI
Bob Lawrence, BNI
Rich Tosetti, BNI
Todd Martin, HAB
Fred Beraneck, WGI
Lee Bostick, WGI
Phil Peistrup, WGI
Steve Piccolo, WGI
Ken Niles, ODOE
Rick Gay, CTUIR
Russell Jim, YN
Pat Sobotta, NPT
Administrative Record: Tank Waste Treatment Requirements